

Metropolitan Building (Guaranty Loan Building)  
308 Second Avenue South  
Minneapolis  
Hennepin County  
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-49

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE Minnesota	COUNTY Hennepin	TOWN OR VICINITY Minneapolis
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Metropolitan Building		HABS NO. MN-49
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Guaranty Loan Building		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 308 Second Avenue South		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1890	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Edward Townsend Mix	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of the most impressive and dizzyingly exuberant interior courts of all multi-story commercial blocks built in the late 19th century.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Romanesque Adaptation		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Exterior masonry bearing walls of New England granite and Portage red sandstone. Interior supports of cast iron, with hollow tile and terra cotta and concrete floors. Cantilevered interior balconies floored in structural glass.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Block of offices around a central court (56'x90'). Ground coverage 128'x155'; gross floor area: 40,000.00 sq.ft. Twelve stories; 175' in height.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Arches, long oriels, deep window reveals, ornamental columns, tower.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Central court open throughout twelve stories, roofed by skylight. Twelfth floor originally restaurant with roof pavilion. Two banks, three elevators, each with open cages in open shafts: freight elevator and two staircases. Cantilevered balconies which served as corridors to offices, floored in translucent structural glass.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Demolished 1962		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Demolished 1962		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Builder N.N. Leighton and Company. Cost: \$2,000,000.00 in 1890. Original owner: Northwestern Guaranty Loan Company		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Condit, Car. <u>American Building Art, the Nineteenth Century</u> . NY: Oxford U. Press, 1960. pp69-70 Koeper, H.F. Unpublished report submitted to HABS/HAER		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, HABS Architectural Historian		DATE June 1983